



Appl. No. 10/084,843
Amtd. dated August 12, 2004
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding an immunogenic portion of a soluble *M. tuberculosis* antigen, wherein the nucleic acid hybridizes under ~~moderately~~ stringent conditions to a nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:46 or a complement thereof, wherein the stringent conditions comprise hybridization in a solution comprising 6X SSC and 0.2% SDS at 65°C and washing in a solution comprising 1X SSC and 0.1% SDS at 65°C.

39. (Previously presented) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid of claim 38.

40. (Previously presented) A host cell comprising an expression vector of claim 39.

41. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 40, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of *E. coli*, yeast, and mammalian cells.

42. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a nucleic acid of claim 38 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

43-51. (Canceled)